

Claims:

1. A wheeled luggage case having a luggage receptacle, the receptacle having two opposing major walls and having end walls forming a luggage compartment, whereof a major wall of the receptacle is adapted to serve as a bottom wall that faces the ground during use of the wheels, wherein said luggage case further comprises:-
 - (i) a plurality of support wheels located at one end of the bottom wall;
 - (ii) a retractable steering wheel assembly, located on the bottom wall, distanced from the support wheels, said steering wheel assembly having at least one wheel and being moveable between an active position at which the wheel assembly extends below the bottom wall of the luggage receptacle or an inactive position at which the wheel assembly is substantially within the profile of the luggage receptacle; and
 - (iii) a handle means located at one end of the luggage receptacle for steering, pushing, pulling and lifting purposes; the steering wheel assembly and support wheels being configured such that with the steering wheel assembly in its active position, the base wall forms an acute angle with respect to the ground, the acute angle extending away from the support wheels.
2. A wheeled luggage case according to Claim 1 comprising two support wheels and a retractable steering wheel assembly configured relative to each other in a tricycle wheel configuration.
3. A wheeled luggage case as claimed in Claim 1, wherein when the steering wheels are retracted, the support wheels are inactivated by a stopper.
4. A wheeled luggage case as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the retractable wheel assembly is pivotally mounted to deploy or retract in a pivoting motion.
5. A wheeled luggage case as claimed in Claim 4, wherein the luggage receptacle incorporates exterior recesses in both an end wall and the bottom wall adapted to accommodate the steering wheel assembly in the inactive and active positions respectively, the steering wheel assembly moving pivotally from the end wall recess to the bottom wall recess to be in its active position.

6. A wheeled luggage case as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the wheel of the steering wheel assembly is pivotally mounted in the assembly such that it can rotate about its own axis and about an axis substantially perpendicular to it.

5 7. A wheeled luggage case as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the steering wheel assembly as deployed is supported by a support surface on the bottom wall of the case.

10 8. A wheeled luggage case as claimed in Claim 7 wherein the support surface is recessed into the base wall of the case.

15 9. A wheeled luggage case as claimed in Claim 8 wherein the support surface for the wheel assembly in the base wall is located at an acute angle to the base wall of the case with respect to a line between the front of the case and the support wheels.

20 10. A wheeled luggage case as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the handle means can be moved between an active position at which the handle extends outwards from the luggage receptacle and can be engaged by the user and an inactive position at which the handle is contained substantially within the luggage receptacle.

11. A wheeled luggage case as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the case in the active wheeling arrangement can act as a trolley cart to carry other luggage

25 12. A wheeled luggage case as claimed in Claim 1, wherein when the wheeling system is in an inactive arrangement, the base of the case is level to the ground by a 'stopper' at one end and the support wheels at the other.

30 13. A wheeled luggage case as claimed in Claim 1, wherein a brake system is incorporated for safety and convenience purposes.

35 14. A wheeled luggage case as claimed in Claim 4, wherein the steering wheel assembly is pivotally mounted to the case in a configuration whereby the weight of the luggage case is not borne via the pivot of the pivotal mounting of the steering wheel assembly to the luggage case.

15. A wheeled luggage case as claimed in Claim 14, wherein the steering wheel assembly has an L-shaped frame or bracket by means of which the assembly is pivotally mounted to the case and whereby an arm of the L-shaped frame or bracket serves to transmit the majority or all of the weight forces that are borne by the

5 steering wheel assembly between the luggage case and the steering wheel and bypassing the pivot of the pivotal mounting of the L-shaped frame or bracket to the case.

16. A wheeled luggage case as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the posterior

10 surface of the case is recessed to provide additional striding space.